Dear Howard, 8/26/72

I hope you atypical silence means that you are enjoying your summer, which is proper, or that busy on your book, which you should be. However, your silence on some things is a bit disturbing. I hope it does not mean that you or someone else is ill or that something else is wrong. like some of my mail not reaching you. None has been returned. The kind of thing I'd not have expected you to ignore is the inquiry to be made of your father on how I could fix the drape in Lil's pffice. And unless you are inordinately busy, I'd have expected some reaction to GRS' letter to the Archives, unless HF has not sent it as I asked.

We do not know the exact date yet, but we'll be going to Wilmington some time around the holidays, for a ceremony at my step-father's grave, I think the setting of the stone rather than the ~~the~~ traditional ceremony. If that coincides with~~m~~ your plans, we could bring you back then. Or return you that far. We won't know until my mother tells us, but she planned for it to be close to the holidays.

On the other hand, it would be nice if your father could overcome the reluctance I have come to share to drive relatively long distances (short ones today, really) for your parents could use the bed you do, you could use the couch in the living room, and your sisted could sleep on the screened-in porch on the chez lounge, which is large enough for me to use. I think they'd enjoy a weekend in the country, and they now have superhighway to the Phila airport, which makes the trip shorter. I understand I 95 goes that far now. It should only be about two hours from there, with the firs. traffic light when they are really through Frederick, at the Holiday Inn near here.

I have made no effort to keep up with the CW operation. I spoke to Jim once about it when he called, apparently from Bud's office and reluctant to talk. All I know-and I'd asked only two questions- is that JP was not there. I was curious about the experts upon whom he might draw and I'd hoped that with this having gone as it has, the maturity of which SM is capable would be represented, esp. since I was sure he was depneding on Smith and perhaps Bud. And I was, naturally, interested in if he learned anything new. Jim's said of the latter only two things of which he hadn't known. I was near DC yesterday and phoned Jim about another matter. With his reluctance I didn't raise the question and he didn't volunteer. I've heard nothing of which I've not written you from anyone. All indications are of a downplay on the Morgan story. AP did not put it on their A or major wire. I have the A-wire story for California and the report from my source that it was not used in any California paper seen. This is more informative than what the Post used, which had that or a similar origin, meaning that the same copy reached DC. I'm surprised not to have heard of Phila treatment from you, unless there was none. I've seen nothing from the Times, on this, The Watergate Caper, or anything else in some time (note on EGC enclosed).

I think you'll want the text of the NBC White Paper for your file and some of the quotes.

We have been having a variety of rough times and have both been busy on other things. At a time I least wanted it I've had to waste much time on the Ray thing. Aside from regretting the waste of time, I'm unhappy that so much of it would have been undone or wrong were it not for me. Had this not been the case, I'd not have spent the time. I've now told Jim that I'm postponing any more work until he has what he regards as the final rough draft, having gone over three and only now gotten them to do what I asked be done more than a year ago. It is now needed.

Thus I've not been able to finish PM. I've posted all corrections and have but the sketches to post in the text. Lil has almost finished carding the index of the Epilogue. I suppose I'll make a bried addition to this on the newest Lattimer and Morgan. Maybe Cyril, but not planned without developments. I'll have to keep the appendix shorter than I'd like for although the prospects are virtually nil, I want something feasible for that very remote possibility. In the course of going over files looking for docs I couldn't find I found some through which you may want to rummage before re-integration with regular files.

I do interpret the revisionism I earlier noted in the handling of the Pent. Papers and found in the NBC White Paper consistent with the possibilities in aut. material examination under the contract and the Morgan timing. I think there may well be an overall design on this by the administration, esp. by those parti pris.

Hope there is nothing wrong. Let us know your plans for coming so we can plan around them. I've heard nothing from Kelly and if I do, it is still too early. I'll be disappointed in you if you do not see where I'm pointed, don't realize I could have done this months ago and didn't then on purpose.

Best,